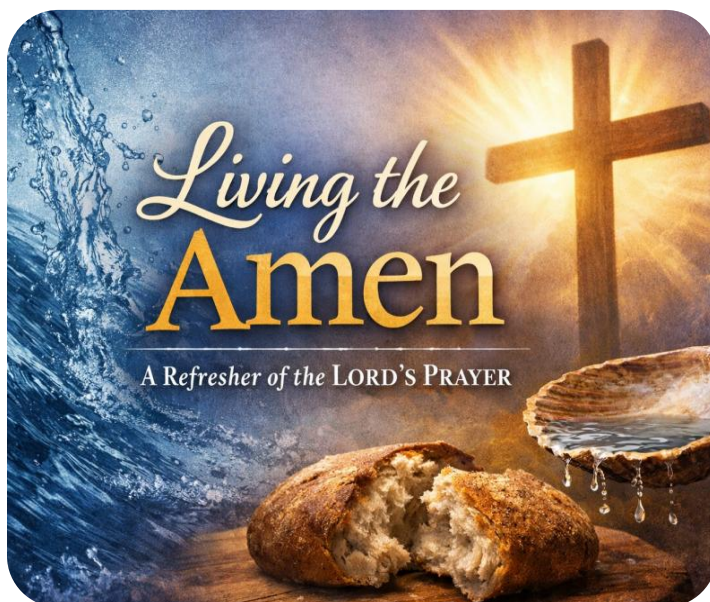


# St. John's Lutheran Church

## ELCA

PO Box 55, 1253 County J  
Little Suamico, WI 54141  
920-826-7785  
Emergency Contact# 906-202-4415 (text ok)

**Reverend Stacy Malzhan**  
**Office Manager & Family/Youth Ministry Director— Karie Peters**



***Fifth Sunday in Lent***  
**March 22, 2026**

**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm  
Call for an appointment with Pastor Stacy

**Email - Pastor Stacy: [pastor@stjohnlittlesuamico.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnlittlesuamico.org)**  
**Office: [stjohnsls@stjohnlittlesuamico.org](mailto:stjohnsls@stjohnlittlesuamico.org)**



*Our worship services are live broadcasted and available for future viewing via YouTube. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.*

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### **Meditation**

During the prelude, we invite you into a time of reflection. The main doors of the sanctuary will remain closed prior to worship so those who wish may have a time of centering and reflection of the past week, our community, our world, and God's sacrificial and redeeming love for us all.

**Church Year Information~ Season: Lent • Color: Purple**

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## **GATHERING**

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE:** *Please see ELW Page 138 in the front of your hymnal.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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### WORD

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#### PSALM 103:6-14

- <sup>6</sup>The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.  
<sup>14</sup>For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### READING: Romans 8:6-11

*For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.*

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:23-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup> "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON ON THE STEPS:

*The noisy offering today will be donated to a local school's lunch program.*

**MESSAGE:** "Forgive Us... repent, forgive, and return."

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *What Wondrous Love Is This* (ELW 666)



## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*To You All Hearts Are Open* (ACS 1012)

To you all hearts are o - pen, to  
you all de - sires known. To you there are no  
se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.

*Last time*

## SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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## STEWARDSHIP TIME

As the well-known hymn says, "Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe." Everything we have, we owe to the grace of God. Therefore, it is only right that we return a portion of those gifts to God, whether it be financial, our skills and talents, or our relationships. Let us take this moment to give these gifts to God.

### STEWARDSHIP OF GENEROSITY

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of St. John's Ministries.

Offerings may be given in the following ways:

- Use the QR code to the right to make a gift.
- Place your offering in the plate when it is passed.
- Enroll in Simply Giving for automatic giving from a bank account or credit card.  
(See Karie for more information.)



### STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create in Me a Clean Heart*** (ELW 186)

### PRAYER OF FAITHFUL RESPONSE

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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## MEAL

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### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

#### LORD'S PRAYER LITANY

Our Father in heaven, You are holy. You are above us. To you we pray.

**Hallowed be your name.**

Your name is holy. Keep it holy among us, and throughout this world, this needy world.

**Your kingdom come.**

Come, O Father, with your holy kingdom—to us, and through us to many others.

**Your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

If it's your will, it has to be good. Let it be done here on earth, Lord. Please.

**Give us today our daily bread.**

Our bread for today is plenty, but we ask enough for all the needy in this world.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

We cannot live without your forgiveness, O Lord, and this world will destroy itself unless we forgive each other. Help us to keep the forgiveness flowing.

**Lead us not into temptation.**

You are strong, and we are weak. When we walk with you, we are strong.

**But deliver us from evil.**

Evil is many-faced and many-sided. Only you are stronger. Be our strong rock.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

You can hear. You can answer. You can prevail. And you let us call you "Our Father."  
We thank and praise you. So be it. **Amen!**

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### LAMB OF GOD (ELW Setting 3)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

#### COMMUNION HYMN: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (ELW 773)

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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## SENDING

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#### BLESSING

#### SENDING HYMN: *You Are the Way* (ELW 758)

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**



**Please remember these people in your prayers.**

There are **PRAYER CARDS** in the Narthex beneath the nametags and in the pews. If you have a special prayer request, please complete the form and place it in the offering plate or place it in the office mailbox. Your prayer will be added to the Prayer List and **will remain there for 3 weeks**. If you wish to have the person's name continue to be listed, you must notify the church office in writing on a prayer card or by email. Be sure to let us know when someone may be removed from the prayer list as well. If you have questions, please contact Karie in the church office.

**Those who mourn:**

The family of Ellie Nickel (Mother of Amy Spaude)

**Those who are home bound:**

Arlene Matuszewski

Fran Koski

Arlene Giese

Ron and Diana Sefcik

Edwin Kazik (Father of Karie Peters)

Donna Ward (Sister of Lorna Koch)

Bud & Ann Wardecki (Parents of Barb Dorn)

**Those who are ill/recovering/ have special needs or concerns:**

Ron Koch

Earl & Shirley Habeck

Doris Fleck

Wayne Wentworth

Joe Kozlovsky

Marie Zirbel Meyer (Aunt of Janet Francies)

Mark Heisel (Friend of Greg & Tammy Yager)

Greg Roberts (Son-in-law of Nancy Valentine)

Peggy Foltz (Sister of Beth Wentz)

Betty Couillard (Sister of Doug Malueg)

Kerry Pranica (Friend of Doris Fleck)

Randy Denneau (Brother of Lorna Koch)

Helen Mohan (Daughter of Tess Smith)

Kay Koch (Friend of Lorna Koch)

Al Reimer (Friend of Pam Giese)

Erin Culbertson (Friend of Doris Fleck)

Yvonne Virtues (Mother of Pat Virtues)

Carol Barker (Mother of Beth Wentz)

Mike & Carmen Peters (Parents of Tim Peters)

Dave Hansen (Nephew of Doug & Helen Malueg)

Ashley Rogers (Friend of Tim & Karie Peters)

Family of Ronny Neitzel (Friend of Tina Douglass)

Kelly Havlik Lacera (Friend of Desiree Kozlovsky)

Nick Carter (Friend of Duayne & Pat Rosenberg)

Eli Marchand (Son of Michelle Marchand)

John and Shirley Tramontin (Parents of Tess Smith)

Jason Heider (Son of Janet Heider)

Brenton Severson (Grandson of Janet Francies)

Mike Killian (Friend of Tim & Karie Peters)

Jill Willner (Niece & Cousin of Ann, Rob & Nikky Urbaniak)

Sharon Hanson (Sister/Sister-in-law of Doug & Helen Malueg)

**Those who are serving in the Military:**


Josh & Cheyenne Perrault- Air Force

Gage Boyd- Air Force (Grandson of Tracey & Pamela Krumrei)

Alex Culbertson-Wisconsin National Guard (Grandson of Dave & Ginny Burkart)

Sam Cooper-Captain, Army Reserves (Son of Jerry & Michelle Cooper)

*This Week at St. John's*

Sun, March 22	Mon, March 23	Tues, March 24	Wed, March 25
<b>9:00am</b> , Worship <b>10:15am</b> , Fellowship Faith Finders! WELCA		<b>10:00am</b> , Fitness Class Level 2 <b>11:00am</b> , Fitness Class Level 1 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lent 5</b></p> <b>5:45pm</b> , Simple Supper <b>6:30pm</b> , Midweek Lenten Worship
Thurs, March 26	Fri, March 27	Sat, March 28	Sun, March 29
<b>11:30am</b> , Brown Bag Bible Study	<b>Office Closed</b>	<b>LYO Breakfast Club</b> <b>6:00pm</b> , AA Meeting	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>First Holy Communion</b> <b>9:00am</b> , Worship <b>10:15am</b> , Fellowship Faith Finders! LYO Bible Study

	<i>Sunday March 22</i>	<i>Sunday March 29</i>
<i>Acolyte(s)</i>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Needed</b>
<i>Welcome Center</i>	Pat Rosenberg	Beth Wentz
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Ginny Burkart <b>Three Needed</b>	<b>Four Needed</b>
<i>Communion Steward</i>	Ginny Burkart	Lorna Koch
<i>Greeters</i>	<b>Two Needed</b>	<b>Two Needed</b>
<i>Technology Team</i>	<b>Needed</b>	Eder Family
<i>Scripture Readers</i>	<b>Needed</b>	Shellie Virtues
<i>Scrip Volunteers</i>	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt	Steve & Angie Larsen Susan Mittelstaedt
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Kelly Stellmacher* Rob & Nancy Gleffe	Barb Dorn* Dave & Ginny Burkart
<i>Ushers</i>	Andy Dorn Fran Miller John Warren	Tracey Krumrei Pat & Shellie Virtues